MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 21 and 22, 1924.

The fifth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1924 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, March 21, and Saturday, March 22, 1924. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Medary,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held February 1, 1924, were approved.

2. RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF HENRY BACON: The Commission of Fine Arts placed on record their sense of the great loss sustained in the death of Mr. Henry Bacon, on February 16, 1924, in the following Resolution, which was adopted:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts came together at the first meeting after the death of Henry Bacon, with a sense of personal sorrow at the loss of one with whom they had been associated by closest ties of friendship. The first serious matter that came before the Commission of Fine Arts on its creation in 1910 was the Lincoln Memorial, in all its phases. The Commission had been created on the recommendation of President Taft, who was also Chairman of the Lincoln Memorial Commission. At his instance the Commission of Fine Arts gave advice as to the location of the Lincoln Memorial; they recommended as the architect Mr. Bacon and

they approved his plans and designs.

During all the formative years of the Commission, the associations with Mr. Bacon were intimate. The membership changed, but he was a continuing factor in its deliberations.

When his work on the Lincoln Memorial ended with the creation of a building which stands among the world's works of architecture, it was fitting that he should be appointed to membership on the Commission. The knowledge that he had gained, the triumph he had achieved and the recognition that had been accorded to him, qualified him in the highest degree to give advice in regard to Government works. This advice he always gave with high appreciation of the demands of Government service on the artists, but also in the spirit of helpfulness, liberality, and consideration.

The death of a man who has become notable through his work is always a loss to the community. In Mr. Bacon's case this loss is especially severe because he died at an age when a succession of beautiful creations might reasonably have been expected from him.

The members of the Commission place on their records this minute as an expression of their appreciation and sorrow.

The Commission directed that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Mrs. Henry Bacon, and to The American Institute of Architects.

On April 3, 1924, while the House of Representatives had under consideration the Independent Offices Bill (H. R.8235), during which the appropriation item for the Commission of Fine Arts for the fiscal year 1925 was approved, Hon. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, a Representative from New York City, gave a beautiful tribute to Mr. Henry Bacon. A copy of the remarks of Mr. LaGuardia is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.

3. PAINTINGS OF THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES:

Mr. Moore stated that Senator Pepper, Chairman of the Joint Committee on

the Library, had called for a special report with reference to the paintings of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, which for some time have been hanging in the rooms of the Committee on the Library, House of Representatives.

Mr. Moore advised that several years ago the Commission of Fine Arts had been called upon to report in the matter and did report under date of April 8, 1916. A copy of this report, Mr. Moore said, he forwarded to Senator Pepper, together with a supplementary statement to the effect that paintings of all the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States should be acquired, for which a place should be provided in a National Gallery of Art, and that Mr. Mowbray had given his approval to the reply. The Commission concurred in the matter. (Exhibit A).

4. PORTRAIT OF PRESIDENT HARDING: Mr. Moore advised that Senator Pepper had called for an expression of opinion with reference to a portrait of President Harding, which had been painted by Walter I. Cox, the question of purchasing the portrait being before the Committee. Mr. Moore stated that the portrait was not a good likeness of President Harding, and its purchase was not warranted, and he so advised (Exhibit B). The Commission concurred in the matter.

Mr. Fraser deplored the fact that a number of persons have recently come to Washington to secure commissions to paint portraits of officials of the Government, but whose work is not recognized by the leaders in the Fine Arts in this country, especially as to painting and sculpture; that among these are foreigners, who encroach upon the rights of American artists.

5. UNITED STATES FLAG STANDARDIZATION: Mr. R. M. Hudson, Chairman of the Flag Standardization Committee, Department of Commerce, appeared before the

Commission with a colored drawing requested by the Commission of a United States flag, drawn in the proportion of 13 to 21, with the union 7 to 8, and the star circle diameter 3/4 of the width of the stripe. He also presented a colored flag drawn in the proportion of 1 to 1.67. The Commission discussed the designs in detail.

The design in the proportion of 13 to 21 appeared to the Commission considerably better than the drawing of the flag 1 to 1.67; but the arrangement of the stars seemed mechanical, and it was thought that this could be adjusted by alternating the stars--that is, every other star should be reversed. Attention was called to the fact that the flag over George Washington's Headquarters during the Revolution had 6 points, and that for several years after the United States flag was adopted there was a stripe to every star. The Commission felt the stars should be drawn somewhat closer together, leaving a little more blue margin between the outer row of the stars and the edge of the flag. The Commission felt that the proposed new proportion of 13 to 21, based on the width of the stripe, when worked out in its various proportions, would be much more preferable to flag manufacturers than one based on a system of decimals.

Mr. Hudson stated that the recommendation of the Commission heretofore made of a flag in the proportion of 1 to 1.67 had been very favorably received by flag manufacturers and he was not prepared to say whether they would favor this further change; at the same time he felt that if it is to mean an improvement in the design its adoption is warranted regardless of protest by the manufacturers.

The question of color was considered. Mr. Mowbray stated that the best red to use is the Chinese Vermillion, and ultramarine for the blue. (Exhibit C).

6. CLEANING AND LETTERING OF HEADSTONES: The Quartermaster General submitted for advice a letter sent to him by The J. B. Ford Company, of Wyandotte, Michigan,

suggesting the use of Wyandotte Detergent for cleaning headstones, and requesting information with reference to cleaning headstones and cutting of the lettering.

Mr. Fraser stated that the headstones should not be sandblasted nor pumiced; that the only cleaning material he has found free from oil and containing the right proportion of amonia is Perline, other cleaning materials having a tendency to disintegrate and to discolor the marble.

The Commission felt that the headstones should not be cleaned at all, and in this connection called attention to the Civil War headstones, whose natural deterioration by the elements has rather added to their beauty, the same being true of the old colonial tombstones; also attention was called to the inscriptions which have come down from ancient Roman times and have stood the test of centuries. Mr. Medary called attention to the fact that it is difficult to read new inscriptions on new stones, and people frequently insist that the carving should be very much deeper; the same is true of new mouldings in a house, which become heavier and can be seen better as soon as a little dirt accumulates on them. In the same way the lettering on these new headstones will be more easily read within a few months; in general principles, what you cannot see today, you can see vividly in a few months.

The Graves Registration Service, Office of the Quartermaster General, advised that the depth of carving the letter was not included in their specifications for cutting the headstones, but that it appeared from examination of one of the stones at Arlington that the name is carved 1/8 of an inch deep and the regiment and State 1/16 of an inch. This they will make the subject of further inquiry. The recommendations of the Commission were embodied in a report to the Quartermaster General (Exhibit D).

7. IMPROVEMENT OF THE STREET LIGHTING, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia submitted through Captain John E. Wood and Mr. J. W. Gosling, a full sized drawing of the new 22-foot double light lamp post for avenues and plazas in the District of Columbia. With minor suggestions, the design was approved. They also submitted a globe for this lamp-post, 4 feet in height and 1 1/4 feet in diameter, especially designed for the electrical apparatus with which it is to be equipped, and made of most durable glass to withstand good sized hailstones. Mr. Gosling called attention to a sketch he had made of a pennant with special fixtures for the lamp-post, which was suggested at a meeting of the Commission a few months ago. Mr. Gosling said a pennant and fixture such as this was being made at Schenectady, New York, for the G. A. R. Convention to be held there this spring. Mr. Medary called attention to a defect in the design in that he said no star appears on the shield of the United States.

The Commission advised that this brings up the question of putting street signs on this lamp-post. Captain Wood stated that this is contemplated and the Commission advised that the matter should be taken up now with the designer.

8. TENLEYTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE: Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted a revised study of the Tenleytown Schoolhouse. The Commission thought the building well designed, and the design was approved. Details of the design were discussed by Mr. Ayres and Mr. Medary with the architect. The flagpole over the entrance is to be omitted.

9. HOWARD UNIVERSITY, GYMNASIUM, ARMORY AND ATHLETIC FIELD: Dr. J. M. Scott, and A. I. Cassell, architect, appeared before the Commission with revised drawings for their proposed Gymnasium, Armory and Athletic Field, stating that

the cost of the building and Athletic Field must be kept within $197,500, the amount appropriated by Congress. The building is to be of fireproof construction, the exterior to be of brick and stone or brick and terra cotta of quality and type to harmonize with that of the existing buildings, and the interior is to be finished generally in the same manner as a first class office building. Dr. Scott advised that the bill (H.R.7550), involving the granting of permission to close two streets, alleys, etc., and to acquire the piece of parking owned by the Government and to be included in the site for the building, has been approved by the War Department and is now before Congress.

The site for the building is east of and on a line with Clark Hall, and was approved by the Commission, the site for the Athletic Field was also approved. The building is to be at least 60 x 90 feet, basement and three floors equipped with Drill Hall, Gymnasium, Swimming Pool, offices, etc: to face south, with suitable entrance.

The Commission were not of the opinion that the proposed building and equipment, including the Athletic Field, according to the designs, could be provided for the sum appropriated, and therefore recommended that if the building is to be built the plans be thoroughly revised with a view to simplification, both as to exterior and interior, including the question of circulation of students to the various parts of the building. The Howard University authorities should then consult a contractor and secure from him an estimate of cost of erecting the building before they obligate themselves as to size or character of construction. The recommendations of the Commission were embodied in a report to Dr. Scott, Secretary-Treasurer of Howard University (Exhibit E).

10. PUBLIC BUILDINGS FOR WASHINGTON: Mr. Moore reported that the Director of the Budget, General Lord, had requested advice of him with reference to

the need of public buildings in Washington, in conformity with the recommendation of the President in his Annual Message to Congress for a $5,000,000 annual building program. Mr. Moore said he called the attention of General Lord to the Public Buildings Commission's Report made in 1917 (Senate Document 155, 65th Congress, 2d Session), , based on the Plan of 1901 and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, and that he had recommended in particular the erection of an Archives Building; that among other buildings urgently needed are the Agricultural Department Building (completion of central portion), Department of Justice building, Department of Commerce building, and a building for the Department of State.

11. BUCHANAN MEMORIAL: Mr. Ayres stated that he had done nothing with the drawings sent by the architect of the Buchanan Memorial, Mr. Beecher, as they had been sent to him to consult with Mr. Bacon concerning them. Mr. Medary advised that when he inspected the full-sized model of the Buchanan Memorial about two months ago he was under the impression that it was too large for the location in Meridian Hill Park, but that on examination of the model of the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park at the meeting of the Commission on February 1st, he felt that the monument would not dominate and overwhelm the major axis of the Lower Garden as he had thought it would, and to be certain that the conditions illustrated in the model were in accordance with the actual facts he measured the model and also the trees behind it, and was satisfied that when the planting is completed and the garden realized as shown in the model the Buchanan Memorial would not have the effect he feared.

Mr. Ayres and Mr. Medary inspected the plans and suggested a number of changes, which were marked on the plans. They felt, however, it would be very desirable to have Mr. Beecher present at the next meeting, so that the changes proposed could be considered with him. The Commission concurred in the suggestion.

12. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Under date of March 14, 1924, Lieut.Col. U. C. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted a copy of a letter, received by him under date of March 17th, with sketch drawing, from Mr. H. W. Peaslee, architect in charge of the design of Meridian Hill Park, as follows:

> "Some time ago, I heard discussion of the ultimate possibilities of trimming the east side of Meridian Hill Park as part of a scheme to make 15th Street take care of more north and south bound traffic. It seemed to me that this would be a most unfortunate outcome, especially with the upper wall already in place. Therefore, in working up the 15th Street wall, I have been giving considerable study to find how the proposal could be countered.
>
> "If you will examine the general plan of the park, you will observe that park walks parallel 15th Street except for breaks at the Great Terrace and south of the Buchanan Memorial. It has occurred to me that with these gaps supplied, the west sidewalks of 15th Street could be entirely dispensed with since the east walk will take care of pedestrians requiring access to the bordering houses and a walk within the park would be far more inviting than a sidewalk along the wall. With the elimination of this west walk, the roadway of 15th Street could be increased 10 feet, making it 40 feet altogether and giving at least one more traffic line.
>
> "A study of the plan suggests modifications to obtain this result. The enclosed diagram indicates an interesting way around the east end of the Great Terrace and a new treatment at the southeast corner, which not only affords some interest to a treatment that offered very few possibilities, but by the setback gives the south bound motorist a better view of east bound travel.
>
> "A narrow strip with curbing could abut the wall if considered desirable but its function would be more to keep cars away from the wall and to plant vines than to encourage pedestrian movement.
>
> "The proposed change is submitted at this time as studies are in progress for the lower section of the 15th Street wall. I have discussed the proposition informally with Major Wheeler, who thinks it very desirable from the traffic viewpoint. It might be timely to refer the question to the Fine Arts Commission which is to review the Buchanan Memorial plans this week.

The Commission considered the sketch submitted, and approved the elimination of the sidewalk along the eastern side of the park, and also cutting back the corner, as suggested. Another walk within the park was not thought necessary (Exhibit F).

13. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: Mr. Harvey W. Corbett, architect, of

New York City, appeared before the Commission with a suggested drawing for the proposed Navy and Marine Memorial, the erection of which was authorized by an Act of Congress approved February 16, 1924, as follows:

> "RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to grant permission to the honorary national committee and executive committee of the Navy and Marine Memorial for the erection on public grounds of the United States in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, other than those of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the White House, of a memorial to the Navy and marine services, to be known as Navy and Marine Memorial Dedicated to Americans Lost at Sea: PROVIDED, That the site chosen and the design of the memorial shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts, and that the United States shall be put to no expense in or by the erection or maintenance of the said memorial."

Mr. Corbett stated that he had been recently requested by the Navy and Marine Memorial Association to be the architect for their monument and that he had prepared a suggested treatment of the platform for the site desired for the monument,-at Hains Point, the southern extremity of East Potomac Park. The original design, he said, had been reduced one-half, so that the memorial itself would be about 30 feet high and 32 feet wide at the base, the steps to be 200 feet long. Mr. Corbett said he was not submitting the sketch for an approval of it but rather to have a positive statement from the Commission as to whether or not they approved the idea of such a memorial as is proposed at the site in question. He thought that if the Commission approved the idea they could produce an effective monument. The model, he said, represents a piece of naturalistic sculpture--sea gulls suspended over a wave rising to a crescendo. The birds are to have a spread of five feet. The platform is to be about 200 feet long, marked by memorial plaques, with steps leading to the ground. Mr. Corbett said the sculptor, Ernesto Begni del Piatta, had brought with him a sketch model, should the Commission desire to see it, and he was requested to show his model.

Mr. Pietta, in submitting his sketch model, said it had been hurriedly made, that it was a revision of his original model, which was square-shaped, whereas this was oblong. The model was made on the scale of 1/4" to 1'. The Commission inspected the model. After the inspection both Mr. Corbett and Mr. Pietta left, and the Commission thereupon considered the design.

Mr. Fraser regarded the design altogether pictorial, which could not be carried out well. He said that Mr. Pietta is not known among sculptors for any great work that he has done, and here an attempt is being made to provide a great Navy and Marine memorial, to cost $350,000, and place it in one of the most prominent locations in the National Capital. Mr. Fraser did not favor the idea of accepting such a design,--that to present a naturalistic idea in sculpture is something the greatest sculptors hesitate to undertake. Mr. Ayres did not think that this design would give a proper monument for the location. Mr. Medary thought it an interesting "stunt" which has aroused a great deal of interest,- a design which might be attractive for a monument on a small scale but which if produced on a large scale would be inappropriate for a Navy and Marine Memorial and for the location proposed. Mr. Mowbray likewise regarded the design inappropriate for the location.

The Commission concluded that the proposed design, showing sea gulls suspended over a wave, too trivial for a Navy and Marine Memorial and inappropriate for the location proposed at the southern extremity of East Potomac Park.

14. APPROACH FOR THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE; and IMPROVEMENT OF M STREET AT GEORGETOWN: On Saturday Morning, March 22, Captain John E. Wood, Assistant to the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, submitted a tentative sketch showing a proposed lay-out for a plaza treatment on the Georgetown side of the Francis Scott Key Bridge; and the widening of M Street, which contemplates

the removal of old buildings from about 26th Street, N.W., to the bridge, a distance of 7 or 8 blocks. The plan provides for the widening of the street to about 350 feet, with a grass panel in the center, permitting of the extension of Pennsylvania Avenue to the Key Bridge.

The Commission thought the plan would bring about a most desirable improvement, and made a trip of inspection to the locality. The plan contemplates an architectural treatment to the west of the Key Bridge approach, aligned with the vista down M Street. The Commission thought it would be better to give the approach to the Key Bridge a distinct and adequate treatment, as this is most urgently needed, and that related features such as the proposed architectural treatment proposed to the west of the bridge, while they might be shown in the plan could be taken up later. It was thought desirable to bring the plan to the attention of prominent citizens of Georgetown to secure their cooperation in the matter of widening M Street.

After visiting the Key Bridge, the Commission drove to the Virginia side of the proposed Arlington Memorial Bridge, to consider the approach of the Memorial Bridge to Arlington; then along the Washington water front, to inspect suggested improvements, especially along Water Street; and then over parts of the proposed Fort Drive, of which Captain Wood had submitted a plan. The plan provides for a boulevard about 39 miles in length, connecting the chain of forts sites, near the boundary line of the District of Columbia, and contemplates paving such portions of the Fort Drive at once which are now a part of the highways of the District. The Commission endorsed the plan (Exhibit G)

15. PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION OF ARLINGTON: The Commission received the following letter, dated March 20, 1924, from Hon. Dwight F. Davis, The Assistant Secretary of War, with plans for the improvement and extension

of Arlington National Cemetery:

"In further reference to your letter of May 24th, and my reply of May 28th, on the subject of improvements at Arlington Cemetery, I am enclosing herewith plans and estimates, prepared by the Quartermaster General in accordance with the suggestions in your letter, and request that you return them to me with such comment and suggestions as you may care to make."

The proposed improvements are indicated in particular in the "Preliminary Plan for Improvement of Grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, prepared under the direction of the National Commission of Fine Arts, September, 1921 (Plan No.6608-122)", and includes a plan for the remodeling of the grounds about the Arlington Mansion, the treatment of the World War Section, the extension of the Arlington National Cemetery so as to include the Arlington Farms; and relating the Arlington National Cemetery to the Park System of the District of Columbia; with a suitable approach to Arlington, which is also being considered in connection with the plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

The plans were referred to Mr. Greenleaf, Landscape Architect member of the Commission, for special attention, and for such recommendations as he may have to submit to the Commission at their next meeting.

The Commission adjourned on Saturday afternoon at 5:00 p.m.

EXTRACT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, APRIL 3, 1924.

Remarks on Mr. Henry Bacon, by Hon. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, of New York City, in the House of Representatives, on April 3, 1924, during the consideration of the Executive and Independent Offices Bill for the fiscal year, 1925, when the appropriation item pertaining to the Commission of Fine Arts was approved:

The Clerk read as follows:

For all printing and binding for the Commission of Fine Arts, $300.

Mr. LAGUARDIA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out the last word.

My colleagues, at this point, while considering the section providing for the Commission of Fine Arts, I believe it is proper and fitting that we should pause a moment to pay tribute to a great American, a former member of this commission, who passed away on February 16, 1924, in the city of New York—Henry Bacon. This great American, who was not only known nationally but internationally known as a great architect and a famous artist, was dear not only to many Members of this House who knew him intimately but to the entire world and to hundreds of thousands who visit the National Capital and gaze with admiration on the great Lincoln Memorial on the banks of the Potomac. Not many months ago the Nation's appreciation was expressed to Henry Bacon by the late President Harding in an appropriate and masterful address. The President pointed to the genius and the art of Henry Bacon as typified in the Lincoln Memorial.

I enjoyed the privilege of Henry Bacon's friendship, and like everyone who knew him I loved him. A more gentle and more modest soul never lived.

I take this opportunity to read a eulogy of the Rev. Karl Reiland, rector of St. George Church, of New York City, who was one of Henry Bacon's friends. The Reverend Doctor Reiland said:

In that great building in the city of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, on the banks of the Thames, is an inscription in the Latin language which reads, "Si monumentum requiris—circumspice," which means "If you are searching for a monument, look around you." In our own land on the banks of the Potomac is another great structure, and some time some one may say: "If for Henry Bacon you seek a monument, behold that building."

The Lincoln Memorial will stand as a shrine to Abraham Lincoln's memory. May I say also that it will henceforth stand as a symbol of Henry Bacon's soul. Its dignity, it majesty, and its beauty make one of his friends, perhaps all of them, think of that rectitude, of that strength, of that honor and sincerity which richly endowed his nature. It might be difficult to find one more enthusiastic for the fortunate and more sympathetic for the distressed. There was in him that happy flexibility and grace of personality which is made up of courtesy, simplicity, and humility; and as he went in and out among his fellow men he was like "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." He distorted no large task by exaggeration nor disparaged a small one by neglect. There was in his nature no false ring; there was no withering disappointment. In the city of Washington, it is true, he built that great temple, yet it was made with hands, and will endure through the ages; but Henry Bacon built another temple of human worth, a building not made with hands—eternal in the heavens—it is the temple of the heart and of the life.

He was eminently one of those who "maintain the fabric of the world and in whose handiwork is their prayer." We surrender him to the everlasting arms of mercy, from whom no soul can possibly fall; we surrender him to "that bourne from which no traveler returns," but we will not surrender him from the harbor of our hearts, where he shall live in the unfailing love and abiding memory of his fellow men.

Thus he was known and loved by men of every calling in life. The confrères of his own profession esteemed him not only for his ability, his intellect, and attainments, but for his splendid, genuine manhood, generosity, and comradeship.

The American people are grateful to him for the gift of his genius. [Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the proforma amendment is withdrawn.

COPY

March 14, 1924.

Dear Sir:

In response to your request for suggestions as to the portraits of the Justices of the Supreme Court now hanging in the room of the House Committee on the Library, I would say that the Commission of Fine Arts has examined these portraits and reached certain conclusions in regard to them, which were embodied in a report submitted to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library under date of April 8, 1916, a copy of which report is enclosed.

Supplementing that report it may be said:

1. It is desirable that the Government have the portraits of all the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. These portraits should hang in a National Portrait Gallery. Congress has set aside a site for such a Gallery and the Smithsonian Institution is preparing plans for a building.

2. On examining the portraits it was discovered that those of the earlier justices were painted from portraits or engravings. These copies are comparatively small in size and are uniformly framed. They are well painted from the standpoint of historical documents. No one of them approaches the great portrait of the first Chief Justice, John Jay, now hanging in the robing room of the Supreme Court. On the other hand they are better than some of the other portraits which find lodgment on the same walls. They might be accepted therefore and disposed of temporarily in such manner as the Supreme Court might decide pending the construction of the National Gallery of Art.

3. The portraits of recent Justices of the Supreme Court in the same collection are works of varying merit. Most of them were painted at a period in the life of the sitter, which brings into prominence the effect of old age. The sizes vary from large to larger, thus throwing them out of proportion with the earlier portraits of men of at least equal distinction. It would be preferable that all of them be cut down to a size corresponding to the portraits of the earliest justices and that they be framed uniformly and simply.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. George W. Pepper, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT A.

COPY

April 8, 1916.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the reference, for report, of S.3345, 64th Congress, 1st Session, providing for the purchase of oil portraits of Justices of the United States Supreme Court Blair, Wilson, Iredell, Thomas Johnson, Chase, Patterson (stated as Pattison), Thompson, Wayne, Washington, Moore, William Johnson, Todd, Duval, Livingston, Trimble, Baldwin, Barbour, McKinley, McLean, Cushing, Peckham, Brown, Harlan, Brewer, and Moody (twenty-five in all), which were painted by Mr. Albert Rosenthal.

The Commission have already had the opportunity during the past year to report to the Senate Committee on the Library upon the merits of a bill providing for the acquisition of these portrait paintings for the sum of $20,000. The Commission advised that, if the historic importance of the portraits is considered by Congress to be sufficient, the artistic quality is good enough to justify the purchase of the portraits of justices Blair, Wilson, Iredell, Thomas Johnson, Chase, Patterson, Thompson, Wayne, Washington, Moore, William Johnson, Todd, Duval, Livingston, Trimble, Baldwin, Barbour, McKinley, McLean, and Cushing.

The Commission also recommended acceptance on the same basis of the five remaining portraits, namely those of justices Peckham, Brown, Harlan, Brewer and Moody, provided Congress desires to acquire them as historic documents. In case of their acceptance the Commission advised that the artist be instructed to reduce these five portraits to the dimensions in each case of the dimensions given to each of the twenty canvasses. This reduction was suggested, first, for the sake of historic significance in order that no factitious distinction may appear to be made by the sizes of the canvasses, and, secondly, because in case these canvasses should ever be paneled into walls, parity of size would be convenient to the process of paneling. The price asked for the group of portraits would seem to the Commission of Fine Arts to be somewhat high.

At the same time the Commission took the opportunity to suggest to your committee the advisability of gradually creating a permanent and complete collection of such portraits, and that, in order to ensure adequacy in their painting, as well as of other portraits to be owned by the Government, some regular procedure be approximately followed. In order to establish such a procedure it was suggested that several portrait painters of national reputation should be invited to furnish a list of artists who in their opinion would be able and willing to paint for a reasonable sum in each case adequate portraits from available data, and that such a list should at all times be available to the committee in charge of the question of such portrait painting.

The portraits so purchased should be preserved as historical documents of national import, and should not necessarily occupy any specific position; but when a specific position should be definitely alloted to them, it should be determined by experts and with a view to their availability for being paneled into the walls more or less symmetrically and in a way that should enhance the general decorative character of the said walls as well as with a view to their historic importance.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

Wm. W. Harts,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Chairman,
Committee on the Library,
United States Senate.

COPY

March 13, 1924.

Hon. George Wharton Pepper,
Chairman, Joint Committee
on the Library.

Sir:

In response to your verbal request for an opinion as to the merits of the portrait of President Harding by Mr. Walter I. Cox, proposed for purchase for the White House, I would say that neither as a likeness nor as a painting is it worthy.

The question of official portraits is one that decidedly needs attention. The practice of leaving the matter to the personal solicitations of the artist has resulted in filling the public offices with a host of inferior paintings - and busts. The Government pays enough for these portraits to secure the work of American artists of the first class; but even a casual inspection of the White House portraits shows that, with three or four exceptions, they are often inferior to unofficial portraits of the same officials. Some of the largest were painted long after the death of the subject, and are without value either as historical documents or works of art.

The sudden death of President Harding and the fact that no one of the portraits of him is satisfactory, makes it desirable that the official portrait be painted from photographs. In such case the commission should be given to one of the best of American portrait painters.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore

EXHIBIT B.

COPY

March 24, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 21, 1924, gave consideration to the colored designs of the United States flag which you submitted, one drawn on the proportion of 1. to 1.67; the other on the suggested change in proportion of 13 to 21, and the union in the proportion of 7 to 8, with the star circle diameter three-fourths the width of the stripe. The Commission were pleased to have you present to discuss with them the problem which the Department of Commerce has undertaken of bringing about uniformity in the manufacture of United States flags, and heard with interest your statement that at a conference of flag manufacturers held last fall the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts that the proportion of the United States flag be as 1 to 1.67 has been for the most part favorably received.

Your recent request that the Commission of Fine Arts advise with reference to the star circle diameter has caused the Commission to take up the question of having a uniform flag not only in the relation of fly to hoist, but also in relation to the union and the star circle diameter. The Commission thought the colored flag which you submitted, drawn in the proportion of 13 to 21 much better in design than the other (1 to 1.67), but felt that the arrangement of the stars appeared mechanical and that the union could be improved. The Commission would therefore be pleased to have you submit to them at their next meeting another drawing of a United States flag, in colors, drawn in the proportion of 13 to 21, with the union as 7 is to 8, and the star circle diameter 3/4 of the width of the stripe; and showing the following:

1. The stars to be drawn a little closer together, so as to leave a little more blue margin between the outer row of stars and the edge of the flag;

2. The stars to be drawn so as to alternate the arrangement, as indicated on the attached sketch (in other words every other star should be reversed)

3. Instead of having the points of the star sharp, they should be slightly filled in at the corner, as indicated on the attached sketch.

The Commission suggest that vermillion red and ultramarine blue be used in coloring the design.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. R. M. Hudson, Chairman,
Flag Standardization Committee,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C.

COPY

April 2, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts have received the communication relative to the cleaning and lettering of headstones, particularly those of the World War. In reply thereto the Commission would say:

1. The J. B. Ford Company is favorably known to members of the Commission and we have no doubt that as a general principle the materials they furnish would be found excellent, provided any such cleaning materials could properly be used on marble.

2. Mr. Fraser, the sculptor member of the Commission, stated that the only cleaning material he has found free from oil and containing the right proportion of amonia is Perline. Other cleaning materials have a tendency to disintegrate and to discolor the marble.

3. The experience of the War Department in the use of Sapolio or other like cleaning materials is in line with the experience of architects, namely that all such cleaning materials leave the surface of the marble exposed to attacks of fungus and discolorations from dirt. The process of sandblasting and cleaning frequently used to restore the white color to buildings is destructive in the highest degree.

4. The discoloration of marble due to time and the natural action of the elements is not at all objectionable. On the other hand, it gives a quality highly desirable. The Civil War headstones at Arlington have a fine quality which the newer stones do not yet possess.

5. The Commission has taken the liberty of asking the Bureau of Standards as to the chemical effects on marble of various cleaning materials referred to in your letter.

6. As to the depth of the cutting of the letters on the headstones, the specifications call for a certain depth of cutting. If these specifications are followed in the contracts made by the War Department, the lettering will be superior to any attainable by other forms of cutting. The character and form of this lettering was recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts after thorough consideration. It is a form of lettering which has come down from Ancient Roman times and has stood the test of centuries. It is the same form of lettering which was adopted independently by both the Commission of Fine Arts and The Imperial War Graves Commission of Great Britain. Each body arrived at their conclusions as the result of experience in monumental work. As time goes on and weather modifies the newness of the marble, the lettering will be increasingly effective, and, provided the depth is maintained according to specifications, the result should be more satisfactory than can be obtained in any other manner.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Quartermaster General,

War Department,

Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

March 25, 1924.

My dear Dr. Scott:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 21, 1924, gave careful consideration to the plan submitted for the proposed Gymnasium, Armory and Athletic Field for Howard University.

The Commission approve the site for the building and for the Athletic Field. They were not satisfied with the design of the building. It is lacking in character, in good proportions and in simplicity. The appropriation is a very small one, and it is necessary to economize wherever possible. As explained to you and your associates, there were features which increased the expense, while detracting from the appearance of the building. The Commission were not satisfied that the plans of the building had been sufficiently studied in connection with the authorities of Howard University, who would direct the use of it.

The Commission advise, therefore, that new designs be made for the building and that the plan be restudied with a view to getting better circulation. It may be necessary to make still further eliminations in order to bring the costs within the appropriation, and the Commission advise that tentative estimates be obtained on the cost of the work.

As to the location, the Commission advise that if it is the desire of the authorities of Howard University to carry out the idea of a terrace commanding McMillan Park, a retaining wall would seem necessary particularly to permit of passing the Dining Hall, and possibly also near the proposed Gymnasium and Armory building.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Dr. Emmett J. Scott,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Howard University,
Washington,D.C.

EXHIBIT E.

COPY

March 24, 1924.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of March 19, transmitting a copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr. H. W. Peaslee, architect, together with a sketch prepared by him, suggesting changes in the design of Meridian Hill Park, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting March 21, 1924.

The Commission approve the elimination of the sidewalk along the eastern side of the park, and also cutting back the corner, in order to give south bound motorists a better view of east bound travel. The necessity of another walk within the park is not now apparent, and the Commission feel that the new walk would interfere seriously with the design of the park, particularly with the panel near the Buchanan statue. The park is small, and the quiet spaces as shown in the plan should be preserved. The sketch is returned herewith.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,

Officer in Charge of

Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT F.

COPY

April 2, 1924.

Dear Captain Wood:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledges your letter of March 22, containing a print showing the proposed circuit drive and also a copy of your letter to the Board of Charities, in answer to certain criticisms that had come to you, through Senator Bayard, in relation to delays occasioned in following the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, that the opinion of a hospital expert be obtained before entering upon the construction of hospital buildings for the Gallinger Hospital. Your letter covers the ground so intelligently and so adequately as to leave nothing further to be said on the subject. The idea of going ahead on so important a project without such expert advice was so obvious a mistake that a statement of the facts is a sufficient argument for making a radical change, and the Commission express their gratification that the change has been made.

The plan you have worked out for the Fort Drive is a happy solution of a problem that has been before the public for more than a score of years and when public opinion is focused upon the plan doubtless it will be realized.

The members of the Commission have read with regret in the newspapers that in the natural course of Army affairs you are to be assigned to duties elsewhere than in the District of Columbia. Your quick comprehension of the problems involved in the improvement of Washington and in the outlying areas, which it has been necessary to acquire for purposes of the administration of the charities and reformatories of the District, has been noted by the Commission with the highest appreciation. It has been a pleasure and a satisfaction to work with you in these matters, and the Commission desire to express their regret from their point of view that these relations are shortly to be severed.

With the best wishes for your continued success in your profession, we are

Very sincerely, yours,

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

by Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Captain John B. Wood,
Corps of Engineers, U.S.Army,
Assistant to the Engineer Commissioner,
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G.

COPY

ENGINEER COMMISSIONER
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1924.

Honorable Charles Moore,
National Fine Arts Commission,
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Moore:

There is herewith prints showing the two projects discussed at the recent meeting of the Commission.

One print shows the circuit drive. The route followed in last Saturday's trip is shown in heavy black lines superimposed on a map of the District of Columbia. The entire route is made up of sections of several streets. The length of drive is approximately thirty-nine miles. Dotted lines indicate future possible changes.

The blueprint shows the proposed development between Rock Creek and Key Bridge. Changes suggested by the Commission are not included on this print. A new study will be made based on the criticism received.

You will be interested perhaps in two items of the editorial column of the Evening Star issue of Tuesday, March 25th. These notes refer to the proposed water front development and the circuit drive referred to above.

For your information I am sending an extract of my endorsement to the Board of Charities relative to Senator Bayard's criticism. This text was copied verbatim in a letter to Senator Bayard. You will see that any misunderstanding as to the Fine Arts Commission's relation to the development is fully explained.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Wood,

Capt. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army,
Assistant to Engineer Commissioner.

COPY

2nd Endorsement. March 13, 1924.

B.C.3386
To the Secretary, Board of Charities:

About a year ago the immediate construction of two ward buildings in the Gallinger Hospital reservation was considered. Funds are available. Completion of the Psychopathic Group without provision for additional buildings made it necessary to locate these wards in the general plan. The Psychopathic Group is detached. Before commencing any portion of the general group, however, it was felt both proper and desirable that the plans be submitted to the National Fine Arts Commission for criticism.

On this occasion it developed that the plans for the main group had been worked out years ago and apparently without the criticism of experts in hospital construction. During this time much professional advancement undoubtedly had been made. An able architect recognizes the value of expert advice along specialized lines. Our Municipal Architect wishes expert advice in hospital administration and construction before he commits himself to any portion of a plant which will eventually cost $5,000,000. The delay resulting since the presentation of the plans to the Fine Arts Commission is due to the facts as thus developed rather than to any interference or objection on the part of the Commission. The Commission frankly admitted that it was not competent to criticise plans which did not bear the approval of an expert hospital designer.

The outstanding figure in modern hospital construction in this country is Dr. S. S. Goldwater of New York City. Correspondence developed that Dr. Goldwater would come to Washington and furnish expert advice on the plans of the Gallinger Hospital for a fee of $1,000. According to the Auditor this fee could not be paid from the appropriation without specific authorization of law. An item for this authorization is included in the supplemental estimates now before Congress. Favorable action is expected within the month. It is likely that Dr. Goldwater's work can be completed in June of this year. Thereupon, the construction can proceed with the assurance that we are expending public funds for a thoroughly modern hospital.

The delay is unfortunate. If there is blame it can be laid to the original preparation of the plans which might have presumed an expert knowledge not shared by the officials now charged with the proper expenditure of funds. I am confident that the delay will be more than compensated by the value derived from Dr. Goldwater's investigation and advice. I cannot too strongly urge that this procedure be followed through to its conclusion, to the end that the future hospital will be of maximum benefit to those whom it is to serve and convenience and economy to the administration.

(Signed) J. E. Wood,
Capt., Corps of Engineers, U.S.Army,
Assistant to Engineer Commissioner.